

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an image, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

associating each of the metadata labels in the list with at least one of a plurality of icons;

displaying the plurality of icons, each of the icons being labelled with one or more of the metadata labels with which the icon was associated;

displaying the image adjacent to the displayed plurality of labelled icons, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

detecting one or more subjects within the image, using an image detection method, to form one or more automatically placed forming a plurality of bounded region regions within the image, each said automatically placed bounded region ~~being configured to substantially surround surrounding [[a]] at least one of the detected subject subjects~~ within said image;

forming one or more manually placed bounded region within the image in response to user input;

detecting selection of at least one of the displayed plurality of labelled icons;

dragging the selected icon to the image, such that at least one of said automatically placed bounded regions region and said manually placed bounded region is changed upon the selected icon being dragged over the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, in order to emphasize the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region;

dropping the selected icon within the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, wherein the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

linking the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon with a description of the location of the selected subject within the image; and storing the linked one or more metadata labels and the description as an annotation of the image.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed based on an analysis of pixels of the image.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the analysis includes an analysis of the colour information of the pixels of the image.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is of a predetermined size.

6. to 10. (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of extracting a part of the image based on the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising a step of displaying the extracted part of the image.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined automatically.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is changeable by a user.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the one or more metadata labels are stored as the annotation of the subject, and are displayed upon selecting the subject in the image.

16. to 17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said storing step includes storing the one or more metadata labels as the annotation of the subject of the image by using a tag indicating an association with the image.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the one or more metadata labels associated with the subject of the image are stored in an XML file.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of e-mailing at least the image to at least one e-mail address based on the one or more metadata labels associated with the image.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of replacing a default icon by the selected icon based on the subject of the image.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program, wherein said computer program comprises software code portions for performing a method of annotating an image, said program comprising:

code for extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

code for associating each of the metadata labels in the list with at least one of a plurality of icons;

code for displaying the plurality of icons, each of the icons being labelled with one or more of the metadata labels with which the icon was associated;

code for displaying the image adjacent to the displayed plurality of labelled icons, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

code for detecting one or more subjects within the image, using an image detection method, to form one or more automatically placed forming a plurality of bounded regions within the image, each said automatically placed bounded region being configured to substantially surround surrounding [[a]] at least one of the detected subjects subject within said image;

code for forming one or more manually placed bounded region within the image in response to user input:

code for detecting selection of at least one of the displayed plurality of labelled icons;

code for dragging the selected icon to the image, such that at least one of said automatically placed bounded regions region and said manually placed bounded region is changed upon the selected icon being dragged over the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, in order to emphasize the

at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region;

code for dropping the selected icon within the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, wherein the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

code for linking the one or more metadata labels associated with the selected icon with a description of the location of the subject within the image; and

code for storing the linked one or more metadata labels and the description as an annotation of the image.

24. to 25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed based on an analysis of pixels of the image.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 26, wherein the analysis includes an analysis of the colour information of the pixels of the image.

28. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is of a predetermined size.

29. to 33. (Cancelled).

34. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising code for extracting a part of the image based on the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 34, further comprising code for displaying the extracted part of the image.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined automatically.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is changeable by a user.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the one or more metadata labels are stored as the annotation of the subject, and are displayed upon selecting the subject in the image.

39. and 40. (Cancelled).

41. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising code for storing the metadata labels as the annotation of the subject of the image by using a tag indicating an association with the image.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 41, wherein the one or more metadata labels associated with the subject of the image are stored in an XML file.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising code for e-mailing at least the image to at least one e-mail address based on the one or more metadata labels associated with the image.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, further comprising code for replacing a default icon by the selected icon based on the subject of the image.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the description includes a location of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the description includes a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed at a location at which the selected icon is dropped on the image.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined based on the analysis.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein only the linked one or more metadata labels and the description are stored as an annotation of the subject of the image.

50. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the description of the bounded region corresponding to the selected_subject includes a location of the bounded region within the image.

51. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the description of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject includes a size of the bounded region.

52. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is formed at a location at which the icon is dropped on the image.

53. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 26, wherein a size of the bounded region corresponding to the selected subject is determined based on the analysis.

54. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 23, wherein only the linked one or more metadata labels and the description are stored as an annotation of the subject of the image.

55. (Cancelled).

56. (Currently Amended) A method of annotating an image, said method comprising the steps of:

extracting a plurality of metadata labels from an existing database of metadata labels to form a list of metadata labels;

displaying a representation of each of the metadata labels in the list;

displaying the image adjacent to the displayed representations of metadata labels, wherein said metadata labels are generated prior to having knowledge of the content of the image;

detecting one or more subjects within the image, using an image detection method, to form one or more automatically placed forming a plurality of bounded regions within the image, each said automatically placed bounded region being configured to substantially surround surrounding [[a]] at least one of the detected subjects subject within said image;

forming one or more manually placed bounded regions within the image in response to user input;

detecting selection of at least one of the displayed representations of metadata labels;

dragging the selected representation to the image, such that at least one of said automatically placed bounded regions region and said manually placed bounded region is changed upon the selected representation being dragged over the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, in order to emphasize the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region;

dropping the selected representation within the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region, wherein the at least one of said automatically placed bounded region and said manually placed bounded region corresponds to a selected subject within the image;

linking the metadata label associated with the selected representation with a description of the location of the selected subject within the image; and
storing the linked metadata label and the description as an annotation of the image.